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COUNTRY Siam

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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SUBJECT Added Information Concerning the Murders of the  
Ex-Ministers

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1A

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1. Major Lanthom Chitwinon led the killing of the ex-Ministers at Bangkok.
2. The shooting of the ex-Ministers occurred at a point 14 to 15 kilometers from Bangkok on the Don Muang highway. The firing, according to the chief of the Bangkok prison, occurred about 2:15 a.m. on 4 March. Altogether about one hundred shots were fired. On hearing the reports, the prison was alerted, and officials were sent to the scene; these officials were ordered back to the prison by the ex-Ministers' escort. Luang Pichit Thurakarn led the procession of cars in which the murder victims rode. The police in the second car stopped their car and deliberately shot the four ex-Ministers. Phichit returned to the scene and was told abruptly to mind his own business by Major Lanthom, a member of the November coup who had been transferred from the army to the police. Major Lanthom personally shot the ex-Ministers.
3. Phan Inthuwong, former Member of Parliament from Nakhon Phanom and defense lawyer for Haji Sulong, left Bangkok about 10 March to go north and organize the Laos against the central government by telling the full details of the ex-Ministers' deaths to the people. With him was the son of Haji Sulong, who was later to go south and link Muslim support with that of the Laos.\*
4. Thamasak Cholaplum, adopted son of the late Dr. Thong Pleo Cholaplum and a participant in the February coup, was stabbed by former Criminal Investigation Department (CID) corporal Deta Phromlathi on the afternoon of 5 March. Deta's reason for his assault was his resentment against Thamasak. Thamasak had plotted the robbery of a Chinese goldsmith with Deta and two gunmen. The robbery was successful, and Thamasak made an appointment with his colleagues to split the loot. Instead of keeping the appointment, he advised the Special Suppression Squad by telephone of the rendezvous, with the result that the two gunmen were killed and Deta wounded. Deta was finally dismissed from the police force without prosecution.
5. Thamasak is directly responsible for the capture of Thong Pleo as he revealed under pressure the code he used with Thong Pleo. The police used this code to lure Thong Pleo back to Siam from Penang. Thong Pleo had thought of landing at Songkhla to visit Samran Imachai, a well-known lawyer who had offered Thong Pleo sanctuary after the October coup and who had smuggled him into "Malaya when

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the police ordered his arrest for complicity in this earlier ~~cap.~~ Instead, Thong Pleo returned direct to Bangkok and alighted into the open arms of Police Captain Tawsak Yomanarak.

6. Le Xuan, prominent Vietnamese nationalist in Bangkok, stated that the killing of the Laos leaders is certain to have a restive effect in the northeastern provinces. He reported that the feeling was running high in these areas when he was in Chiangmai a few weeks ago. Poeple spoke openly of the need to set up a separate state, and made a particular effort to be impolite to Siamese from the central provinces.
7. The relatives of the four slain ex-Ministers are forming a blood brotherhood for revenge.
8. Phibul, Lieutenant General Prom Yodhi, and possibly Liang Chayakarn had prior knowledge of the murders of the four ex-Ministers. Phibul conceived of their deaths as a sop to both Royalists and anti-Communists. In killing Thong-in, Chamlong, Thawin, and prospectively Tieng Sirikhan, Phibul thought he was getting rid of persons who would conceivably lead Lao areas into the Communist grip, thereby joining the China-Vietnamese bloc. Thawin actually might have been the one man to hold the territory for Siam, as he sincerely suspected Communist motives.

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\* ~~Comment.~~ For details concerning the trip of the son of Raji Sulong see ~~25X1A~~ 25X1A

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